

USSN: 09/982,741
Attorney Docket No. 34402US028
Preliminary Amendment
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wherein the aspect ratio of the stems on the first surface of the backing layer is at least about 1.25; and

wherein the drape has a static coefficient of friction when dry along at least a portion of the first surface is at least 0.6.

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24. A medical drape comprising:
- a backing layer having a first surface and a second surface, where projecting from the first surface of the backing layer is an array of stems which are integrally formed with the backing layer;
 - wherein the aspect ratio of the stems on the first surface of the backing layer is at least about 1.25; and
 - wherein the drape has a static coefficient of friction when dry along at least a portion of the first surface is at least 0.6.

Remarks

This paper is a submission under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 31, 2002. Applicant has filed an RCE in lieu of an appeal brief in order to put the claims in better form for a possible appeal to the Board and to address issues raised by the Office in the Final Office Action. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 5-20, 23 and 24 are presented for further examination. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification as filed, including the documents and references cited and incorporated therein, such as on page 6, lines 16-17, for example.

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-8, 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Cejka et al. (US 6,106,922). While the Office Action recognizes, inter alia, that Cejka fails to disclose the presently claimed coefficient of friction, the Examiner argues that such features are obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.